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Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Carlos Enrique **García González** (El Salvador)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2004, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Committee held a general discussion on agenda item 99 jointly with item 98 at its 10th to 15th meetings, from 12 to 15 October, and considered proposals and took action on item 99 at its 19th, 37th and 53rd meetings, on 20 October and 4 and 24 November 2004. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/59/SR.10-15, 19, 37 and 53).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (A/59/214);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on violence against women (A/59/281);

(c) Letter dated 22 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/59/115);

(d) Letter dated 4 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/C.3/59/2).

4. At the 10th meeting, on 12 October, introductory statements were made by the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (see A/C.3/59/SR.10).

5. At the same meeting, the Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women made a statement (ibid.).

6. Also at the 10th meeting, the Committee engaged in a question-and-answer session with the above-mentioned speakers, in which the representatives of Senegal, El Salvador, the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union), Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Sweden, Switzerland, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Côte d'Ivoire and the Gambia took part (ibid.).

7. At the same meeting, the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women also made a statement (ibid.).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.23

8. At the 19th meeting, on 20 October, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Burkina Faso, China, the Congo, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Viet Nam and Yemen, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Elimination of all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'" (A/C.3/59/L.23). Subsequently, Argentina, the Bahamas, Bahrain, Cameroon, Cape Verde, the Comoros, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kazakhstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Namibia, Nigeria, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, Somalia, Thailand, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

9. At the 37th meeting, on 4 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.23 without a vote (see para. 14, draft resolution I).

10. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Pakistan made a statement. After its adoption, statements were made by the representatives of Canada (also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand) and the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union) (see A/C.3/59/SR.37).

B. Draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

11. At the 53rd meeting, on 24 November, the Rapporteur reported on consultations held on the text of a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly", which was submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations and circulated in an informal paper.

12. At the same meeting, the Secretary read out a correction to the text of the draft resolution, which was then adopted by the Committee, as corrected, without a vote (see para. 14, draft resolution II).

13. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of France and the United States of America. After its adoption, statements were made by the representatives of the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union), New Zealand (also on behalf of Canada and Australia) and Japan (see A/C.3/59/SR.53).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

14. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Elimination of all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which, inter alia, calls for international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recalling also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,[2] the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[3] the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[4] the Beijing Declaration[5] and Platform for Action[6] adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted on 25 June 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights[7] and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[8]

Recalling further its resolution 57/181 of 18 December 2002 and the agreed conclusions of the forty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women of 12 March 2004,[9]

Reaffirming the obligations of all States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as enunciated in the Charter, and reaffirming also the obligations of States parties under international human rights instruments, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[10] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[10] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[11] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] See resolution 2263 (XXII).
[3] See resolution 48/104.
[4] See resolution 1904 (XVIII).
[5] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.
[6] Ibid., annex II.
[7] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.
[8] See resolution 55/2.
[9] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 7* (E/2004/27), chap. I, sect. A, III and IV.
[10] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[11] Resolution 34/180, annex.

Discrimination,[12] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[13] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment[14] and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[15]

Reaffirming also the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[16]

Reaffirming further the call for the elimination of violence against women and girls, especially all forms of commercial sexual exploitation as well as economic exploitation, including trafficking in women and children, female infanticide, crimes committed in the name of honour, crimes committed in the name of passion, racially motivated crimes, the abduction and sale of children, dowry-related violence and deaths, acid attacks and harmful traditional or customary practices, such as female genital mutilation and early and forced marriages,

Stressing the importance of the empowerment of women as a tool to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;[17]

2. *Expresses deep concern* at the persistence of various forms of violence and crimes against women in all parts of the world, especially all forms of commercial sexual exploitation as well as economic exploitation, including trafficking in women and children, female infanticide, crimes committed in the name of honour, crimes committed in the name of passion, racially motivated crimes, the abduction and sale of children, dowry-related violence and deaths, acid attacks and harmful traditional or customary practices, such as female genital mutilation and early and forced marriages;

3. *Stresses* that all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[16] are obstacles to the advancement and empowerment of women, and reaffirms that violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

4. *Also stresses* the need to treat all forms of violence against women and girls of all ages as a criminal offence punishable by law, including violence based on all forms of discrimination;

5. *Welcomes* specific legal and comprehensive legislative measures being enacted or contemplated, in particular with regard to various forms of violence against women and girls;

6. *Also welcomes* in this regard the launching of various initiatives, strategies and action plans aimed at, among other things, eradication, prevention, promotion, information, legislation, protection and welfare, education and research,

[12] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.
[13] Resolution 44/25, annex.
[14] Resolution 39/46, annex.
[15] Resolution 45/158, annex.
[16] Resolution S-23/3, annex.
[17] A/59/281.

enhancement of the economic capacity of women and the monitoring of the various forms of violence against women;

7. *Reaffirms* that there is increased awareness of and commitment to preventing and combating violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session, welcomes in this context various legal, administrative and other measures taken by Governments for their prevention and elimination, and calls for high priority to be attached to the further strengthening of such measures;

8. *Urges* Member States to strengthen awareness and preventive measures for the elimination of all forms of violence against women, whether occurring in public or private life, by encouraging and supporting public campaigns to enhance awareness about the unacceptability and the social costs of violence against women, inter alia, through educational and media campaigns in cooperation with educators, community leaders and the electronic and print media;

9. *Calls upon* States to encourage and support the active participation of men and boys in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence, especially gender-based violence, and to increase the awareness of men and boys of their responsibility in ending violence against women;

10. *Expresses its appreciation* of the work being done by non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations, community-based organizations and individuals, in raising awareness about the economic, social and psychological costs of all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session, and in this regard encourages Governments to continue their support for the work of the non-governmental organizations in addressing this issue;

11. *Calls upon* States to fulfil their obligations under the relevant human rights instruments and to implement the Beijing Platform for Action[6] as well as the outcome document of the twenty-third special session;

12. *Encourages* States parties to include in their reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other relevant treaty bodies, wherever possible, sex-disaggregated data and information on measures taken or initiated to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session;

13. *Urges* relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their mandates, to assist countries, upon their request, in their efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session, and in this regard expresses its appreciation of the work being done by the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Fund for Women and other relevant funds and programmes aimed at preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls;

14. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences to further devote equal attention to all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session, in her work and her reports,

within her mandate, to the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on this matter to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session.

Draft resolution II
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 58/148 of 22 December 2003,

Recalling also the contributions of the four World Conferences on women, held in Mexico City, Copenhagen, Nairobi and Beijing, to the advancement of women and the promotion of gender equality,

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[2] are important contributions to the advancement of women worldwide in the achievement of gender equality and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned,

Reaffirming its commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session, including the twelve critical areas of concern, namely: women and poverty, education and training of women, women and health, violence against women, women and armed conflict, women and the economy, women in power and decision-making, institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, human rights of women, women and the media, women and the environment and the girl child,

Reaffirming also its commitment to overcoming obstacles encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and to strengthening a national and international enabling environment in this regard,

Recognizing that the responsibility for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session rests primarily at the national level and that strengthened efforts are necessary in this respect, and reiterating that enhanced international cooperation is essential for the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

Welcoming the increased attention to the situation of women and girls and the integration of gender perspectives in the work of the United Nations, in particular in the outcomes of major conferences, special sessions and summit conferences and their follow-up processes, as well as the review and appraisal by the Economic and Social Council of the system-wide implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system, the inclusion of the question of gender mainstreaming in its

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[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

agenda, the consideration of annual progress made in gender mainstreaming and the attention given to the gender perspective in the outcomes of its substantive session of 2004,

Reaffirming the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in promoting the advancement of women and gender equality, while noting the open debate on women and peace and security held in the Security Council on 28 October 2004, as well as previous debates,

Bearing in mind its relevant resolutions and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;[3]

2. *Reaffirms* the goals, objectives and commitments contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and in the political declaration and further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session;[2]

3. *Stresses* the need to undertake further action to ensure the full and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, inter alia, through the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, mainstreaming gender perspectives into all policies and programmes and promoting full and equal participation and empowerment of women and enhanced international cooperation for the full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

4. *Underlines* the significance of the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which will mark the tenth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fifth anniversary of the twenty-third special session, and at which the Commission will review the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and consider the current challenges and forward-looking strategies for the advancement of women, as well as the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General;

5. *Stresses* the importance of strong, sustained political will and commitment at the national, regional and international levels for achieving full and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

6. *Welcomes* the opportunity provided by the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women to demonstrate continued and full commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

7. *Encourages* participation at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women at a high political level;

[3] A/59/214.

8. *Invites* States and the United Nations system to publicize the forthcoming session of the Commission on the Status of Women, including through consultation with civil society;

9. *Calls upon* Governments, the relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to continue to take effective action to achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

10. *Emphasizes* that the creation of an enabling environment at the national and international levels, including by ensuring the participation of women on an equal basis with men at all levels of decision-making, is necessary to ensure the full participation of women in all aspects of social, political and economic activities, and in this regard calls upon States to remove obstacles to the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

11. *Emphasizes also* the importance of men and boys taking joint responsibility with women and girls in the promotion of gender equality, taking into account the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-eighth session;

12. *Welcomes* the contributions of the Commission on the Status of Women to the follow-up and review of the implementation of the commitments made in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, reaffirms that the Commission will continue to play a central role in this regard, and encourages Governments, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to continue to support its work;

13. *Stresses* the importance of implementing the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women since its fortieth session;

14. *Reaffirms* its decision that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with their respective mandates and with General Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 and other relevant resolutions, constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that plays the primary role in overall policy-making and follow-up and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

15. *Recalls* that, in accordance with resolution 57/270 B, the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the twenty-third special session will continue to be undertaken within the framework of an integrated and coordinated follow-up to major international conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, and also recalls in this regard the request to each functional commission of the Economic and Social Council to examine its methods of work in order to better pursue the implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits and report to the Economic and Social Council no later than 2005 on the outcome of this examination;

16. *Recognizes* the importance attached to the regional and subregional monitoring of the global and regional platforms for action and of the implementation of the outcome of the twenty-third special session by regional commissions and other regional or subregional structures, within their mandates, in consultation with Governments, calls for the promotion of further cooperation in that respect among Governments and, where appropriate, national machineries of the same region, and welcomes in this regard the contributions of the United Nations regional commissions to the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women;

17. *Encourages* the Economic and Social Council to reiterate its request to the regional commissions that have not yet done so, within their respective mandates and resources, to intensify efforts to build up a database, to be updated regularly, in which all programmes and projects carried out in their respective regions by organizations or bodies of the United Nations system are listed, and to facilitate the dissemination of information on such programmes and projects, as well as the evaluation of their impact on the empowerment of women through the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

18. *Welcomes* Economic and Social Council decision 2004/309 of 23 July 2004, which requests the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women to submit the outcome of the forty-ninth session of the Commission, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session, including to the high-level event of the Assembly on the review of the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[4]

19. *Emphasizes* that the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the promotion of gender equality and of women's empowerment and participation, together with the mainstreaming of a gender perspective, are among the essential elements for advancing the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, with a view, in particular, to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions;

20. *Recognizes* that adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources for the developing countries, including the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources, will also be required;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to highlight the contribution of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action to the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and to integrate gender perspectives in his preparations, including reports, for the review of the Millennium Declaration;

22. *Calls upon* Member States to incorporate gender perspectives in their preparations for the review of the Millennium Declaration;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report on the follow-up to the United Nations Millennium Declaration an assessment of the progress made in promoting the goal of gender equality, in particular in relation to the development

[4] See resolution 55/2.

goals set forth in the Millennium Declaration, and recommendations to improve the measurement and coverage of indicators so that progress towards gender equality can be evaluated over time;

24. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[5] to include information on measures taken to implement the outcome of the twenty-third special session, as well as the Beijing Platform for Action, in their reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women under article 18 of the Convention;

25. *Urges* States parties to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and those that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to its Optional Protocol;[6]

26. *Recognizes* the important role of law, including legislation, in the promotion of gender equality and the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, commends the progress made by States in the area of legal reform, and calls upon States to continue their efforts to repeal laws and eradicate practices that discriminate against women and to adopt laws and promote practices that protect the rights of women and promote gender equality;

27. *Urges* Member States to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,[7] in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

28. *Calls upon* Governments, the United Nations system and all other relevant actors to continue to integrate gender perspectives into the implementation of and follow-up to recent United Nations conferences, summits and special sessions;

29. *Affirms* that, in order to ensure the effective implementation of the strategic objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, the United Nations system should continue to promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming gender perspectives, including through the work of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the maintenance of gender units, focal points and gender specialists, and with the active support of all United Nations bodies, including through ensuring that all United Nations personnel, especially in the field, receive training on gender perspectives in their work, including gender impact analysis, and that appropriate follow-up training is provided;

30. *Recognizes* the need to further include gender perspectives in the work of its Main Committees and other intergovernmental bodies;

31. *Requests* all bodies that deal with programme and budgetary matters, including the Committee for Programme and Coordination, to ensure that all programmes, plans and programme budgets visibly mainstream gender perspectives;

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[5] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[6] Resolution 54/4, annex.

[7] Resolution 55/25, annexes I-III, and resolution 55/255, annex.

32. *Encourages* the Economic and Social Council to continue its efforts to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of all activities in its work and that of its subsidiary bodies, through, inter alia, the system-wide implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2 and its resolution 2004/4 of 7 July 2004;

33. *Welcomes* the convening of the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis in 2005, and encourages Governments and all other stakeholders to integrate a gender perspective into the preparatory processes and outcome documents, taking into account the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-seventh session;[8]

34. *Recognizes* the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, and urges Governments and the United Nations system to take further steps to ensure the integration of gender perspectives and the full and equal participation of women at all levels of decision-making and implementation in all aspects of conflict prevention and resolution and peacebuilding activities and to ensure that efforts to strengthen the rule of law and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict situations incorporate gender perspectives, with a view to achieving gender equality in constitutional, legislative and judicial reform;

35. *Strongly encourages* Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

36. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to promote the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and to disseminate those documents as widely as possible in all the official languages of the United Nations;

37. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report annually to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, with an assessment of progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system, including by providing information on key achievements, lessons learned and best practices, and to recommend further measures and strategies for future action within the United Nations system;

38. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'".

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[8] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 7* (E/2003/27), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/44.